

AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFICATION

Please replace the sole paragraph in the Abstract of the Disclosure, page 32, paragraph 1, with the following rewritten paragraph shown in revised format with changes made to immediate prior version:

The invention ~~[[is]]~~ includes an assembly for adjustably supporting and positioning a fence rail at a user-selected, user-modifiable elevation and at an user-selected, user-modifiable angle ~~and a method for using the assembly~~. The assembly includes: A slotted member containing a plurality of uniformly-sized and uniformly-shaped slots spaced at regular intervals along its length and a bracket member including (1) a handle, (2) a first slot-engaging portion detachably insertable into a first slot among the plurality of slots, (3) a second slot-engaging portion detachably insertable into a second slot among the plurality of slots, and (4) a fence rail contacting portion with a fence rail contacting surface. ~~The method relates to use of the assembly used to support and position a fence rail at a user-selected, user-modifiable elevation and at an user-selected, user-modifiable angle.~~

Please replace the second full paragraph on page 6 (lines 6-15), in the Detailed Description of the Invention, with the following rewritten paragraph shown in revised format with changes made to immediate prior version:

Referring to Figures 1, 2 and 9, a slotted member **15** of a preferred embodiment of the assembly contains a plurality of uniformly-sized and uniformly-shaped non-vertical slots **30** spaced at regular intervals along a length of the slotted member **15** and disposed horizontally through a frontal portion **15A** of the slotted member **15**. Each slot among the plurality of slots **30** is preferably disposed parallel to other slots among the plurality of slots **30**. In preferred embodiments of the slotted member **15**, the distance between an edge of a slot most proximate a most proximate edge of a closest, neighboring slot is equivalent for each slot among the plurality of slots **30**. In standard use, the plurality of slots **30** accordingly allow for detachable connection of the bracket member **20** at a variety of locations along the vertical dimension of the slotted member **15**.

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 8 (lines 3-18), in the Detailed Description of the Invention, with the following rewritten paragraph shown in revised format with changes made to immediate prior version:

To facilitate performance of the functions noted in the preceding sentence, the bracket member **20** is designed to easily insert into the slotted member **15** and thereby form a firm, stable yet detachable connection between the bracket member **20** and the slotted member **15**. Referring to Figures 2, 3, 4, 5 and 9, the first slot-engaging portion **20B** ~~comprises a first~~ includes an L-shaped tab disposed inwardly and upwardly away

from a lower remainder of the bracket member **20**, the first slot-engaging portion 20B terminating at an upper end of the bracket member 20. Width of the first slot-engaging portion **20B** preferably corresponds with a horizontal dimension of each slot among the plurality of slots **30** in the slotted member **15**, allowing for a snug connection when the first slot-engaging portion **20B** is inserted into the first slot **30A**. A maximum length of the first slot-engaging portion **20B** exceeds a maximum vertical dimension of each slot among the plurality of slots **30** in the slotted member **15**. Thus, after initial angular insertion of the first slot-engaging portion **20B** into the first slot **30A** and subsequent movement of the bracket member **20** while inserted in the first slot **30A** to a position generally parallel to the slotted member **15**, the first slot-engaging portion **20B** is retained against an interior surface **15B** of the slotted member **15** with a surface of the bracket member **20** contacting a first support surface **15G** (Fig. 2) of the slotted member **15** bordering a bottom of the first slot **30A** and being supported thereby.

Please replace the last paragraph on page 8 and carrying over to page 9, in the Detailed Description of the Invention, with the following rewritten paragraph shown in revised format with changes made to immediate prior version:

The firm, yet detachable connection between the bracket member **20** and the slotted member **15** is facilitated not only by the first slot-engaging portion **20B** but also by the second slot-engaging portion **20C** of the bracket member **20**. Referring to Figures 2, 3, 4, 5 and 9, preferred embodiments of the second slot-engaging portion **20C** include ~~a second~~ an inverted L-shaped tab disposed inwardly and downwardly away from an upper

remainder of the bracket member **20**, the second slot-engaging portion **20C** terminating at a lower end of the bracket member **20**. The second slot-engaging portion **20C** is spaced at a predetermined distance from the first slot-engaging portion **20B** such that the second slot-engaging portion **20C** is detachably insertable into a second slot **30B** among the plurality of slots **30** while the first slot-engaging portion **20B** occupies the first slot **30A** among the plurality of slots **30**. Width of the second slot-engaging portion **20C** preferably corresponds with a horizontal dimension of each slot among the plurality of slots **30** in the slotted member **15**, facilitating snug connection when the second slot-engaging portion **20C** is inserted into the second slot **30B**. Preferably, the second slot-engaging portion **20C** does not exceed in length any slot among the plurality of slots **30** and may thus be detachably inserted into the second slot **30B** among the plurality of slots **30** while the first slot-engaging portion **20B** occupies the first slot **30A**. Referring to Figures 2 and 9, the second slot-engaging portion **20C** is retained after insertion into the second slot **30B** against the interior surface **15B** of the slotted member **15**, with a surface of the bracket member **20** contacting a second support surface **15H** of the slotted member **15** bordering a bottom of the second slot **30B** and being supported thereby.